

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Plundered!

ON AUGUST 29, 1814, Alexandria surrendered to the British forces. The terms of surrender protected American homes but gave the enemy flour, cotton, tobacco, and other goods as well as military supplies and weapons. On September 3, the occupiers sailed away in seven British vessels and 14 American merchant ships, including some raised from the river bottom where Alexandrians had sunk them to keep them from the enemy.

Alexandria as it appeared around the time of the British occupation.
Prints and Photographs Div., Library of Congress



This 1814 cartoon mocks the citizens of Alexandria for their quick surrender to the British.
Prints and Photographs Div., Library of Congress

*"We yielded to superior power.
Our weakness has been our crime."*

Letter signed by citizens of Alexandria, supporting the decision to surrender

BRITISH DEMANDS

In exchange for sparing people and property, the British would take Alexandria's ships, weapons, and goods meant for export. The Alexandria Common Council adopted a resolution accepting the demands.



www.StarSpangledTrail.net
www.NPS.gov/STSP
Cultural Tourism ★ DC.org

In the summer of 1814 the United States had been at war with Great Britain for two years. Battlefronts had erupted from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. On August 24, following their victory over the Americans at the Battle of Bladensburg, Maryland, British troops marched on Washington with devastating results.

The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail reveals sites of the War of 1812 in Washington, DC, Virginia, and Maryland. Visit ChesapeakeExplorerApp.com or download the [Chesapeake Explorer app](#).